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## Identical letters dated 15 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter from H.E. Mr. Adnan Mansour, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General on the issue of the four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in Lebanon in 1982 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 36.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 15 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Beirut, 10 September 2011

Following the letter addressed by the Lebanese Prime Minister dated 13 September 2008, I would like to raise again the issue of the four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in Lebanon in 1982, namely:

1. Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi — Chargé d'affaires
2. Ahmad Motevaselian — Military Attaché
3. Taghi Rastegar Moghadam — Technician
4. Kazem Akhavan — Iranian News Agency

When Lebanon was subjected to a brutal Israeli invasion which led to the occupation by Israel of more than half of the Lebanese territory during the summer of 1982, the Lebanese Government had limited control over its territory as a result of the ongoing Israeli aggression and the presence of many non-State actors on the ground. During that period, these four Iranian diplomats at the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon were travelling by road from north Lebanon towards the capital Beirut when they disappeared while crossing a checkpoint in an area not under the authority of the Lebanese armed forces. Their whereabouts and fate are still unknown, although there is solid indication that the Israeli occupying forces were later involved in this matter.

The Lebanese Government is actively seeking to address all unresolved issues which took place on Lebanese territory, related to detainees and missing persons, including this issue which involves persons with diplomatic status, notwithstanding any possible contacts or negotiations concerning this matter between the concerned countries and/or parties.

Twenty-five years of undisclosed fate constitute by all means a human tragedy for the families of the four persons, and a matter of concern for the Lebanese Government, which, despite the circumstances existing in Lebanon at the time of their disappearance, would like to see this issue fully resolved.

In this regard, based on the inherent responsibility of the Lebanese State for the security and safety of its citizens, as well as that of residents on its territories, any help or assistance which you could provide to this unresolved issue will be much appreciated. The closure of this file will be an important contribution towards resolving the pending issues which still weigh on Lebanon. Accordingly, any help you may be able to extend in this regard will be much appreciated.

I should be grateful, as well, if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the United Nations General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Adnan **Mansour**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Lebanese Emigrants